

Application No. 10/575,301
Amendment dated
Reply to Office Action of August 6, 2007

Docket No.: 215384-104605

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 9 are amended herein and claim 8 has been cancelled. New claim 14 has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-7, 9-14 remain under prosecution in this application.

In the Specification

Paragraph 28 has been amended in compliance with the Examiner's recommendation and accordingly, the Examiner's objection to the specification is believed to be overcome.

35 USC § 103

Claims 1-7 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Hisanaga in view of Kojima. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of originally submitted claim 8. None of the references of record teach or suggest the invention set forth in newly amended claim 1 and accordingly, the undersigned believes that newly amended claim 1 and its dependent claims (claims 2-7 and 9-13) are in condition for allowance.

New Claim 14

New claim 14 has been added. New claim 14 incorporates the features of originally submitted claims 1 and 13. Claim 13 was rejected based on Kojima in combination with Hisanaga in view of Takeshi. The Examiner took the position that Takeshi teaches "... recess portion[s] fixed on an endless belt (3) facing outward." New claim 14 sets forth, amongst other limitations, a "... wiper blade (75) ... fixed on an endless belt as to face outward, and formed with a recess portion (75b) on the area of said wiper blade through which a nozzle (34b) passes upon wiping said nozzle surface (34a)." The structure of new claim 14 is allegedly obvious in view of Kojima (see reference portion K) which allegedly teaches forming a recess portion on the blades fixed on an endless belt facing outward. However, recess portion K of the wiper blade shown in Figure 7 of Kojima is provided for preventing interference between the projecting portion of a print head 8 projecting from a head block 7 (hereinafter referred to as "projection") and the wiper blade itself. The recess portion formed on the wiper blade also enables cleaning on the corner of the side surface of the elevations formed by the projection of the print head 8 and the surface of the head block 7.

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In contrast, the present invention discloses the recess portion (75b) of the wiper blade (75) is formed to thereby allow the nozzles (34b) arrayed in a narrow strip on the nozzle surface (34a) of the projection section (i.e. the end surface of the print head) to travel without directly being in contact with the nozzle (34b)).

This arrangement prevents the wiper blade from directly contacting the nozzle upon wiping the nozzle thus preventing dust and dried ink that may be attached to the nozzle's surface of the circumference of the nozzle and the wiper blade from adhering to the nozzle. Ultimately, this prevents faulty printing due to clogged nozzle.

In contrast, Kojima is not configured to prevent direct contact between the nozzle and the wiper blade. Therefore, the wiper blade of Kojima directly wipes the nozzle formed on the nozzle surface 8a of the print head 8. Accordingly, the invention of new claim 14 is patentably distinct from that disclosed by Kojima.

In view of the above referenced arguments and amendments, the undersigned believes that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-3145, under Order No. 215384-104605 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: *October 25, 2007*

Respectfully submitted,

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